(b) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes Sir. The Government of India through its Resolution dated 22.02.2000 set up 'The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC)'.

(b) The Commission submitted its report on 31st March 2002. The full text of the report of the Commission has been put on the Internet [www.lawmin.nic.in] and the report has also been forwarded to all Ministries/Departments. Action on the recommendations lies with the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, which are administratively concerned with the subject matter of the recommendations.

Clearing of pending cases

221. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the in-house mechanisms through which the higher judiciary (Supreme Court and High Courts) have been able to liquidate considerable backlog of pending cases during 2006 and 2007;

(b) whether it is proposed to further increase the strength of Supreme Court and High Courts so that within a foreseeable future, all the arrears are liquidated and in future arrears do not pile up; and

(c) what measures are being adopted to liquidate such arrears in lower courts, where the involvement of 'Aam Aadmi' is comparatively significant?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Steps taken in recent past to reduce arrears and expedite disposal of cases in higher judiciary:-

1. Grouping and Tagging:- The appeals / petitions arising out of the same order/ judgment or same subject matter/ cause are tagged and are heard and decided together.
2. Categorization.
3. Classification.
4. Group matters are given top priority.
5. Constitution Bench/larger Bench are sitting regularly to decide important question of law.
6. Cases of certain categories such as matters of senior citizens, Corruption cases, Undertrial Prisoners, Women are being heard on priority basis.
7. Mediation and Conciliation Centers have been set up.
8. Lok Adalats are being held.
9. Constitution of specialized Benches.

(b) With a view to facilitating disposal of cases including pending cases in the superior courts, Government reviews the Judge Strength in the High Courts periodically and ensures prompt filling up of vacancies in the High Courts and the Supreme Court. In the last review undertaken in consultation with Chief Justice of India, the Government has decided to create 152 additional posts of judges in the following High Courts:-

1.	Allahabad	65
2.	Andhra Pradesh	10
3.	Bombay	11
4.	Calcutta	08
5.	Delhi	12
6.	Himachal Pradesh	02
7.	Karnataka	01
8.	Kerala	09
9.	Madhya Pradesh	01
10.	Punjab and Haryana	15
11.	Jharkhand	8
12.	Chhattisgarh	10
	Total	152

The Government has also approved the increase in the judge strength of the Supreme Court from the present 25 to 30 excluding the Chief Justice of India.

(c) Time bound disposal of cases is within the exclusive domain of judiciary. However, in order to reduce pendency of cases, the Government has initiated a number of measures. Government is implementing a scheme for computerization of District and Subordinate Courts. Fast Track Courts have been set up for speedy disposal of long pending Sessions cases and the cases involving undertrials in jails. Alternative modes of disposal including mediation, negotiation and arbitration have been encouraged. Some legislative measures have also been introduced for improvement in judicial procedure and for expediting disposal of civil and criminal cases in courts.

Review of procedure of appointment of Judges

222. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bar Council of India has urged Government to review the existing procedure for appointment of Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether members of the Bar and persons of highest repute and experience have been recommended to be included for the selection of Judges; and